Clean Boating Tip Sheet

Waste Containment and Disposal

Trash is ugly and may be dangerous–dangerous to humans and to wildlife. For example, plastic may snare propellers and choke sea turtles. Congress passed a law in 1987 to protect our waterways from garbage. The Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (Title II of Public Law 100-220) regulates the disposal of garbage at sea according to how far a vessel is from shore:

- Within U.S. lakes, rivers, bays, sounds, and within 3 nautical miles from the ocean shore, it is illegal to dump anything other than fish scraps. This includes all of Delaware Bay.
- Between 3 and 12 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and any other garbage that is greater than one inch in size.
- Between 12 and 25 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and dunnage, i.e., lining and packing material, nets, lines, etc.
- Beyond 25 nautical miles, it is illegal to dump plastic.

Meeting the law is easy. Just follow these tips!

Contain Trash

- Don't let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it. Consider it "crew overboard" practice.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging.
- Don't toss cigarette butts overboard. They are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers and recycle them.
- Properly dispose of all trash on-shore, e.g., bring home or leave in a dumpster at the marina.

Recycle

- Recycle cans, glass, plastic bottles, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, oil filters, aerosol cans, electronics equipment (i.e., depth finders) and lead batteries.
- Call DSWA at (800) 404-7080 for locations.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your tackle shop or marina.

Fish Scraps

For safety reasons, marinas are often located in sheltered areas–areas that will protect boats from wind and waves during a storm. The same features that protect boats during a storm, however, also limit the exchange of water. Poor exchange, or flushing, means that any waste which is discharged into the water may stay in the same general area for an extended length of time.

Fish cleaning may pose a problem if the scraps are discarded into a poorly flushed marina basin. Fish waste is smelly and unsightly. Also, life-sustaining oxygen is removed from the water column as bacteria decompose the innards. Avoid problems by following these tips.

- Do not discard fish waste in poorly flushed areas.
- Learn your marina's disposal policy.
- Bag waste and dispose at home or in a dumpster.
- Dispose over deep water.

Maintenance Waste

Dispose of the following items according to the recommendations listed below. Find out about local household hazardous waste collection days. (for households only, will not accept waste from businesses). Call the Delaware Solid Waste Authority at (800) 404-7080 or visit www.dswa.org for local recycling contacts and information on household hazardous waste collection days.

Waste Product	Disposal Method
Oil	Recycle. Small amounts of used can be disposed of with the DSWA recycling igloos. (Contact the DSWA at 1-800-404-7080). Larger amounts should be recycled with a Delaware Permitted Used Oil Transporter. Contact the DNREC, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch for a list of permitted transporters at 302-739-9403.
Oil Filters	Recycle. Used oil and oil filters may be managed through the Delaware Solid Waste Authority Oil Filter Recycling Program, at no cost (1-800-404-7080)
Antifreeze	Recycle.
Paint and Varnish	Water-based - Allow to dry completely. Dispose in regular trash. Oil-based - Dispose of as hazardous waste.
Solvents, Gasoline, and Pesticides	Bring to a household hazardous waste collection day.
Expired Emergency Flares	Bring to local fire department or dispose of as hazardous waste.
Lead-acid batteries	Retailers should take the old battery for disposal when you purchase a new one.

For information about the Delaware Clean Marina Program, contact Delaware Sea Grant at (302) 645-4268, or dchapman@udel.edu